

Amendment Dated July 28, 2008
Serial No. 10/666,529

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IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of obtaining network Virtual Private Network (VPN) services on demand in a MultiProtocol Label Switching (MPLS) communication network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) message containing a request for network VPN services VPN information from an initiating application, the SIP message containing the request for network VPN services containing VPN information; and

registering the VPN information from the SIP message on a the MPLS communication network to cause the MPLS communication network to reserve network resources to establish the network VPN tunnels to provide the network VPN services.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of registering uses Multi-Protocol Border Gateway Protocol (MP-BGP) to distribute routing information associated with the initiating application to the communication network.

Claims 4-5 (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the request for network VPN resources comprises VPN information including requested bandwidth, duration, and quality of service.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising signaling the request to the MPLS communication network.

Claim 8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein signaling the request to the communication network comprises instructing the communication network to reserve network VPN resources on a network VPN tunnel according to the VPN information.

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Claim 9. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising forwarding a SIP invite message toward a destination application.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling at least one processor to perform a method of providing network VPN services on demand, the method comprising the steps of:

using Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) signaling to register application-VPN-ID information associated with a first application on a communication network to reserve resources on the communication network; and

interfacing with the communication network to obtain network VPN resources associated with the application-VPN-ID information upon receipt of a request for access to the network VPN resources from the first application.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of maintaining a mapping between the first application and the network VPN resources provided to the first application.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of receiving session initiation protocol (SIP) signaling from a SIP agent associated with the first application and to generate SIP signaling directed to a second application.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A Service – Virtual Private Network (S-VPN) gateway for obtaining network Virtual Private Network (VPN) services on-demand in a MultiProtocol Label Switching (MPLS) communication network, comprising:

a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) server configured to receive a SIP message containing a request for network VPN services, the SIP message containing the VPN information; and

a media signaling gateway configured to register the VPN information from the SIP message on the MPLS communication network to cause the MPLS communication network to reserve network resources to establish the network VPN tunnels to provide the network VPN services over the MPLS communication network handle SIP signaling to enable a first application to register for network VPN resources using said SIP signaling.

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Claim 14. (Original) The S-VPN gateway of claim 13, wherein the SIP server is further configured to handle SIP signaling to enable the first application to request access to said network VPN services.

Claim 15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Original) The S-VPN gateway of claim 14, further comprising a services module configured to provide authentication, authorization, and accounting services on the communication network.

Claim 17. (Original) The S-VPN gateway of claim 13, further comprising an application-VPN database configured to store information associating applications with network VPN resources on the communication network.